00142

1969/05/21

Reproduced at the National Archives

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12958
By NARA Date 9/9/02

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

21 MAY 1969

May 22, 1969

MEMO FOR: Colonel Haig

The attached Defense document is provided per your request.

L.

William L. Lemnitzer

Attachment TOP SECRET--SENSITIVE

onal Security Affairs)
alysis)
ons & Logistics)

at progress on
ar) was satis-
ouble areas,
tions I would

ature of
the planning
separate
ecifies, inter

a

starting

be drawn up
N and restric-
isory missions
cember 31, 1970,
r 31, 1972.

ial overall
ations, with
l to December 31,

1969), and a complete report by September 1.

It is absolutely essential that we fulfill the requirements specified by the President. I wish to emphasize, too, that planning for the July-December 1969 period must be in sufficient detail for the highest level decisions and for possible implementation.

TOP SECRET, SENSITIVE

Reproduced at the National Archives

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12958
By AK NARA Date 9/9/02

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

21 MAY 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR Secretaries of the Military Departments
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Systems Analysis)
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations & Logistics)

SUBJECT: Progress on NSSM 36

It has been my judgment, at least until recently, that progress on National Security Study Memorandum 36 (Vietnamizing the War) was satisfactory. I am disturbed now by reports which indicate trouble areas, some potentially serious. The reports, and the clarifications I would like to provide, are as follows:

1. There appears to be some confusion about the nature of the planning exercise. There is some feeling the planning being done for return of units in CY 1969 is a separate exercise from NSSM 36. It is not. NSSM 36 specifies, inter alia,

   - The President has directed the preparation of a specific timetable for Vietnamizing the war.

   - Assumptions for this timetable will include a starting date of July 1, 1969.

   - Based on these assumptions, timetables should be drawn up for the transfer of the combat role to the GVN and restriction of the US role to combat support and advisory missions only, with alternative completion dates of December 31, 1970, June 30, 1971, December 31, 1971, and December 31, 1972.

   - The President has requested by June 1 an initial overall report outline, as well as specific recommendations, with alternatives, for the first six months (July 1 to December 31, 1969), and a complete report by September 1.

   It is absolutely essential that we fulfill the requirements specified by the President. I wish to emphasize, too, that planning for the July-December 1969 period must be in sufficient detail for the highest level decisions and for possible implementation.

TOP SECRET, SENSITIVE